

Message Text

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ACTION SNM-02

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 DRC-01 RSC-01 H-03 DEAE-00 /018 W

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P 290550Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7075

C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 11445

FROM CHARGE TO HANDLEY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SNAR IN

SUBJ: REQUEST BY GOI FOR CODEL FREY REPORT ON NARCOTICS
ENFORCEMENT EFFORTS

REF: A) NEW DELHI 4758; B) STATE 030429

BEGIN SUMMARY: UNDER SECRETARY R.K. THAWANI IN MINISTRY
OFFINANCE HAS REQUESTED A COPY OF CODEL FREY REPORT ON
NARCOTICS ENFORCEMENT EFFORTS. WE HAVE DELAYED GIVING REPORT
TO GOI BUT MUST DO SO SOON. WE REALIZE THIS MAY ADVERSELY
AFFECT OUR WORKING LEVEL RELATIONS WITH GOI NARCOTICS OFFICIALS,
AND MAKE OUR CURRENT TALKS ON INDIAN PRODUCTION AND MARKETING
MORE DIFFICULT. END SUMMARY.

1. UNDER SECRETARY OF MINISTRY OF FINANCE R.K. THAWANI HAS
REQUESTED A COPY OF CODEL FREY REPORT FROM EMBOFF. EMBOFF
DELAYED SENDING REPORT TO THAWANI, SAYING THAT EMBASSY WAS
AWARE OF ITS EXISTENCE, BUT DID NOT HAVE COPY ON HAND.

2. AS DEPARTMENT IS AWARE (SEE REFTELS), FREY REPORT
ON NARCOTICS ENFORCEMENT IS LOADED WITH INACCURACIES
ON NUMEROUS COUNTRIES VISITED BY CODEL. SECTION ON
INDIA CASTS DOUBT ON EFFECTIVENESS ON GOI CONTROL
PROCEDURES BY REPORTING MAJOR OPIUM SMUGGLING FROM
BOMBAY TO PERSIAN GULF PORTS FOR TRANSHIPMENT TO EUROPE
AND US, AND ESTIMATE OF ILLICIT DIVERSIONS UP TO 20-25
PERCENT OF TOTAL PRODUCTION. BNDD ATTACHE IS NAMED IN
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REPORT AS SOURCE OF ESTIMATE ON 25 PERCENT DIVERSION.

THE FINAL RECOMMENDATION OF THE REPORT, THAT THE INDIAN GOVERNMENT MUST BE CONVINCED OF THE POTENTIAL DANGER OF DIVERSION AND THE NEED FOR LOCAL COOPERATION IN SUPPRESSING DRUG TRAFFIC, WILL UNDOUBTEDLY IRRITATE THE GOI.

3. WE INTEND TO GIVE THAWANI COPY OF FREY REPORT SOME TIME NEXT WEEK. IN DOING SO WE SHALL STRESS THAT REPORT DOES NOT REFLECT USG POSITION, REFERENCES TO BNDD AS SOURCE OF INFORMATION ARE ERRONEOUS OR DISTORTED, AND USG HAS NO EVIDENCE THAT SIGNIFICANT AMOUNT OF INDIAN ORIGIN OPIUM IS BEING SMUGGLED INTO THE US.

4. DESPITE THESE STATEMENTS WE SEE NO QUESTION BUT THAT BILATERAL GOI AWARENESS OF FREY REPORT WILL MAKE OUR CURRENT TALKS ON INDIAN PRODUCTION AND MARKETING MORE DIFFICULT.
SCHNEIDER

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